

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AID-05 PC-01
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-06
CA-01 /127 R

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O 201736Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000
USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE
CINCLANT NIACT IMMEDIATE
:CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN NIACT IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB NIACT IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000
SAC OFFUTT AB NEB NIACT IMMEDIATE
REDCOM MCDILL AFB FLA NIACT IMMEDIATE
COMJTF7A FT BRAGG NIACT IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
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USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI

S E C R E T STATE 127836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SHABA AS OF 1100 HOURS (EDT),
MAY 20, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND FOR DISCREET USE
WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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2. MILITARY SITUATION - AT MIDNIGHT AND 0030 EDT MAY 20
APPROXIMATELY 800 BELGIAN PARATROOPERS WERE DROPPED ON
KOLWEZI. THEY LANDED SOUTH OF THE AIRPORT AND AT 0255
EDT LINKED UP WITH THE FRENCH PARATROOPERS WHO HAD RE-
CAPTURED MOST OF THE EXPATRIATE RESIDENTIAL SECTIONS OF THE
CITY. THE FIRST FOREIGN NATIONAL WERE FLOWN OUT OF
KOLWEZI BY FENCH AIRCRAFT TO KAMINA. 120 OF THEM HAVE NOW
ARRIVED IN KINSHASA. THE BRITISH HAVE DISPATCHED AIRCRAFT
TO TRANSPORT EXACUEES FROM KAMINA TO LUSAKA.

THE FRENCH REPORT 200 KATAGANS KILLED IN ACTION- FRENCH
CASUALTIES ARE ONE KIA AND 15 MIA. RESIDENTS DESCRIBED THE
OCCUPATION AS A "NIGHTMARE" SOME 70
EUROPEANS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED AND THE EXPATRIATE

SECTIONS OF THE CITY WERE EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED. MANY OF
THEM VOWED THAT THEY WOULD NOT RETURN.

THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE KATANGANS' INTENTIONS MAY
HAVE BEEN TO OCCUPY KOLWEZI AS LONG AS POSSIBLE SO AS
TO FORCE THE EXPATRIATES TO LEAVE, THEREBY CRIPPLING

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND BRINGING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. STATUS OF AMCITS- TWO AMERICANS FROM KOLWEZI HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO KINSHASA (AMONG THE 120 MENTIONED EARLIER), WHILE FOUR OTHERS HAVE ARRIVED IN KOLWEZI.

4. RUMORS OF CUBANS - THE PARIS NEWSPAPER "LE FIGARO" PUBLISHED REPORTS OBTAINED FROM LIBERATED RESIDENTS OF KOLWEZI THAT A MOTORIZED COMPANY OF "CUBANS" HAD LEFT ONLY HOURS BEFORE THE FRENCH PARATROOPERS ARRIVED. AFTER CHECKING FURTHER INTO THESE REPORTS, FRENCH MILITARY ON THE GROUND BELIEVE THAT THESE "CUBANS" WERE PROBABLY ANGOLANS. OUR EMBASSY CAUTIONS THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH HARD INFORMATION TO MAKE A DETERMINATION ON THE VALIDITY
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OF THESE REPORTS.

5. U.S. AIRLIFT SUPPORT -- TWO C-141S TRANSPORTING FRENCH EQUIPMENT HAVE ARRIVED AT LUBUMBASHI. WE HAVE APPROVED A C5A MISSION TO TRANSPORT A FUEL TRUCK FROM CORSICA TO LUBUMBASHI. THIS AIRCRAFT IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART CORSICA 0545 EDT MAY 20 AND ARRIVE AT LUBUMBASHI EARLY MAY 21.

FOUR C-141S HAVE ARRIVED IN ZAIRE WHILE ONE IS STILL EN ROUTE FOR FUEL SUPPORT TO THE BELGIANS. TWO OF THE THREE AIRCRAFT CARRYING AMMUNITION HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN ZAIRE.

6. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY -- IN A SHOW OF MORAL SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU, LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT SAID MAY 19 THAT HE WILL SEND AN ENVOY TO KINSHASA TO DISCUSS THE SHABA SITUATION. TOLBERT CHARACTERIZED US PARTICIPATION IN THE RESCUE AT KOLWEZI AS A POSITIVE INDICATION TO OUR FRIENDS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACT. THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH DISPATCHED A 1500-MAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO SHABA IN 1977, ANNOUNCED MAY 19 THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE TROOPS FOR AN OAU-SPONSORED PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. GABON, IVORY COAST, MAURITANIA, AND SENEGAL MIGHT ALSO BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE TROOPS TO SUCH A FORCE.

ZAIRE'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT ZAIRE WOULD NOT REQUEST A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING BUT THAT ZAIRE WOULD WELCOME A BORDER OBSERVATION MISSION UNDER UN OR OAU AUSPICES TO SHOW WHICH NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WAS HARBORING BASES FOR SUBVERSION. THIS IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PROPOSAL
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ZAIRE PUT FORWARD AFTER SHABA I, BUT WHICH WAS REJECTED
BY THE ANGOLANS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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